

Coos County Ag Updates, January 2018



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Coös County Ag Update

January 2018

North Country Agriculture, Forestry and Conservation News from Coös County.

Welcome! We've joined forces with Coös County Conservation District & NRCS. We hope to share more Agriculture, Forestry and Conservation information with you.

This is a periodic email to let you know about upcoming events, interesting stories, disease and pest alerts, etc. that are relevant to agricultural producers in the area.



Do you have comments, questions, suggestions? Please let us know your ideas for future content!

Send us an email -
steven.turaj@unh.edu (UNH Extension)
carolyn.mcquiston@nh.nacdnet.net (Coös County Conservation District)

Events

UNH Extension February Forage Crop Workshops 2 Locations in NH

Tuesday, February 6, 2018
Rialto Theatre, Main Street, Lancaster

Wednesday, February 7, 2018
Makris Lobster & Steak House,
RT 106, Concord

Following-up on the popularity of last year's sessions, we are expanding on the theme of improving grassland productivity. Sid Bosworth, UVM Extension Agronomist, will discuss grass establishment and management strategies, while Joe Homer, former USDA/NRCS Soil Scientist, will review how soil characteristics can affect your seeding efforts.

Pre-registration is encouraged, feel free to mail or drop off a check at either the Grafton or Coös office if more convenient than on-line registration.

Pesticide Credits have been applied for.



More Information
and
How to Register

Food Safety Modernization Act - Intro

Thursday, March 15, 10:00am-Noon

WREN Farm & Food Program
22 Park Ave, Bethlehem, NH

Call (603) 869-9736



WREN on Facebook

Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA)
More Information Here

Pruning Demonstrations

Save the Date!
More information soon.

April 14, Saturday, 10:00am-Noon
Carroll County - Blueberries
Carroll County Farm, Ossipee
Contact - Olivia.Saunders@UNH.EDU



April 20, Friday, 1:00pm-3:00pm
Coös County - Tree Fruit
Oxbow Farm Orchard, Stark
Contact - Heather.Bryant@UNH.EDU

April 28, Saturday, 1:00pm-3:00pm
Grafton County - Blueberries & Raspberries
Darlings Berries, Canaan, NH
Contact - Heather.Bryant@UNH.EDU

In The News - AG

Saffron?

Margret Skinner at UVM has been researching VT grown Saffron. Saffron is the most expensive spice in the world, with potential profitability higher than greenhouse grown tomatoes and greens. Saffron is the stigma of the *Crocus sativus* L. flower, and each corm usually yields 3 saffron threads, or roughly 4 lbs to the acre. This corm is different than the spring flowering crocus we know here in New England as it flowers in the fall after a summer drought period. In Vermont they have been planting the corms in milk crates and raised beds in late august and moving them into a greenhouse after the "hot" crops have finished. Harvest of the saffron threads happens October-November when the flower is in bloom.



Floral, not saffron variety Crocus

More on UVM's Research

This is an entirely new crop for our region, so we don't recommend converting an operation to saffron until we know more. But early estimates from UVM's research of "gross revenue from dry saffron (\$20/g): \$5,600 in the high tunnel, \$112,000/acre". Some retail locations even receive up to \$36 per gram. For those of you who like to experiment or want a fun side project, perhaps saffron is in your future. To read more UVM has set up a webpage with resources.

Obvious Over-looked minus- and plus+

Among articles in the 1948 Yearbook of Agriculture: Grass is one titled "A Billion Acres of Grasslands" the writer talks about many million acres being "too dry, rough, wet, steep, or too high in elevation for field crops, although some could be made fit by irrigation, drainage, clearing or better management."

Today, all these continue on as factors needing remedy. Poor drainage is one that particularly concerns a lot of farmers. We just see too many buttercups and other damp soil-loving plants taking over formerly productive fields. A few of these are in evidence in these pictures of both upland and river-side locations.



A Mystery solved.

A more positive soil productivity impact is "the rock" picture I've included... let me know if you've noticed these. For many years we would get back soil test results, particularly from the northern part of Coos County that showed a high-good for grass growing- pH level. This was long before the days of abundant wood-ash availability "Hasn't had Lime applied for many years." Was a frequent notation on the sample sent. Well, the 'parent material of the soil' likely had something to do with it. Phylite in this case, a metamorphic rock (between a schist and slate) originally from fine-grained sedimentary rock...composed of quartz, mica, and chlorite crystals. Mica gives its sheen, chlorite its alkaline properties. Bedrock phylite formations in the Dixville Notch have been dated to 500 Million years in age by geologists.

Phylite is from the Greek "Phyllon" meaning Leaf. Its leafy cleavage attributes are readily seen in the picture, it easily split into sheets or slabs. Up here I've heard it called rotten rock as well, since when wet it crumbles up quite readily. Which made it simple to test for its pH properties with my handy Palintest kit, confirming its alkaline range."

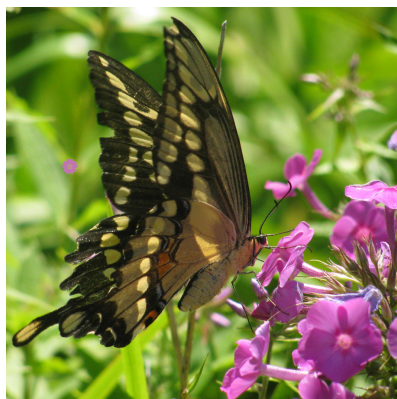


Ideas for NH Growers

To get a head ideas, or to discuss ideas, contact: Heather.Bryant@UNH.EDU

Winter is a great time to create some of the plans you never get around to creating during the growing season...

- crop rotation
- cover crops
- pollinator plantings
- better recordkeeping
- pesticide program
- should I trap for spotted wing drosophila next season
- do I need to comply with FSMA



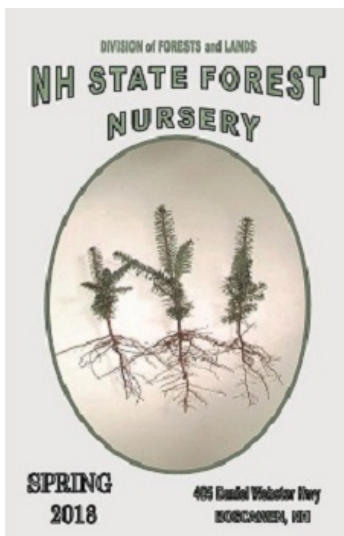
In The News - Forestry

Order Now!

NH State Nursery Seedling Orders should be received no later than March 31, 2018

Contact: Division of Forests & Lands
172 Pembroke Rd, Concord, NH 03301
603-271-2214

NH Nursery Website for More Information



A Walk in the Woods - Looking for Northern White Pine

The Tree of Life

The northern white cedar, known as the "tree of life" by 16th century explorers, is one of my favorite trees to see in the woods. The broad, flat, evergreen foliage, along with its unique scent, make for an attractive tree.

Read more of this article by Jim Frohn, Forester, Grafton County



Forester

In Coos County contact Brendan.Prusik@unh.edu

More Resources for Woodlot Owners



In The News - NRCS



One of the many projects NRCS recently completed was this stream bank restoration. Working with a local landowner to complete this **stream bank erosion project**. Above - before and after photo - the stream bank erosion on the left and the finished crib wall on the right.

Already using a cover crop? Interested in learning more about ways to improve the productivity of your soil?

Soil Health Partnership to encourage the beneficial effects of cover-cropping statewide the NH Association Conservation Districts (NHACD), UNH Extension, NRCS and Granite State Grazers has formed a partnership to provide technical assistance.

The NHACD has also purchased three no-till roller crimpers seeders which terminate cover crops when planting corn. For more on initiatives go to the website.



Visit the Website to Learn More



Roller-Crimper Closeup



Cover Crop seeding, Fall 2017

Coös County Conservation District

LARGE EQUIPMENT RENTAL - Wood Ash Spreader

For descriptions of the tools go to the District's [website](#)

HIGH TUNNEL / GARDEN TOOL RENTALS

Coös County Conservation District applied for and received the 2012 Specialty Crop Block Grant to purchase tools specialized for high tunnels. With this grant various tools were purchased for the general public to use free of charge. This allows the client to try-out these specialized, often expensive, quality tools before purchasing.

A simple agreement with each client, along with a check for a deposit in the amount of each tool is all that is required for use of these great tools. The time frame on the use of these tools varies on supply and demand but is usually 4-7 days. A specific lending time frame will be determined and noted on the sign-out form before the equipment is used.

Contact Carolyn at the -
Coös County Conservation District
4 Mayberry Lane, Lancaster NH 03584
603-788-4651 Ext. 102
email: Coös County Conservation District



NH Farm Bureau



Veterans in Agriculture

Welcome them back to the land:
This new NH Farm Bureau committee is continuing their efforts to grow NH Agriculture by helping Veterans connect with the larger agricultural community. Further educational workshops are being planned for the coming year.

Interested in being part of [NH Farm Bureau's Veterans in Agriculture Committee?](#)

Contact:
Veterans in Agriculture Committee Chair, [Glen Putnam](#), (603) 667-0097 or email glen@winsomefarmorganics.com

For more information about NH Farm Bureau, please call (603) 224-1934 or e-mail nhfb3@nhfarmbureau.org

Your Coös County Farm Bureau President is [Joyce Brady](#)



NH Farm Bureau Website

Soil Test, Plant Disease, Insect ID & Alerts



Soil Test
How & Where to Submit Samples



Plant Diseases
How & Where to Submit Samples



Insect Identification
How & Where to Submit Samples



News & Alerts, NH IPM
Sign up for newsletters and more



NH Bugs
Damaging Insects & Diseases

Questions? The Education Center Can Help.



Home or Garden Question? Get answers from a Master Gardener

Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm highly-trained Master Gardeners are available to answer your questions about gardening, lawns, pests, fruits and vegetables, food safety and more. For research-based information you can trust, pick up the phone, send an email or stop by today!

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please ask our Education Center

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You can also subscribe here to other UNHCE news letters that may be of interest to you.



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The UNH Cooperative Extension office in Coös County is located in the

[North Country Resource Center](#)
[629A Main Street](#)
[Lancaster, NH 03584](#)

For more information on Coös County UNH Cooperative Extension [visit our website](#), [email us](#), or call 603-788-4961



About UNH Cooperative Extension

Extension is at work in every New Hampshire county, making the state's key industries stronger, developing vibrant communities and municipal leaders, fostering healthy families and an informed and engaged citizenry, and keeping the state's natural resources healthy and productive.

The University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension is an equal opportunity educator and employer. University of New Hampshire, US Department of Agriculture, and NH Counties cooperating.

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